



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#21-0977

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: November 2, 2021

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances Sec. 28-1B, Relating to Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an ordinance, on first reading, amending Sec. 28-1B, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale relating to year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures.

Background

The intent of mandatory Year-Round Irrigation Ordinances is to implement procedures to protect water resources and promote water conservation through the efficient use of landscape irrigation and consistency with the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). These ordinances also increase water use efficiency, prevent and curtail wasteful irrigation practices, and prohibit the operation of irrigation systems in a manner causing water to be wasted. It also supports the water conservation program within the water use permit.

The City adopted a Water Conservation Ordinance (Sec. 28-1B) in 2009 and can attest to the benefits of such an ordinance by the year after year decrease of water consumption per capita.

The SFWMD in performing a district-wide review of municipal Year-Round Irrigation Ordinances is requesting the City of Fort Lauderdale amend their current ordinance to align with Chapter 40E-24 (F.A.C) and Broward County Sec. 36-55, which are applicable to municipalities within Broward County.

The following changes are being made to be consistent with SFWMD and Broward County Ordinances:

- Updated definition section for consistent terminology
- Updated landscape irrigation restrictions

- Although the City as a practice promotes two days a week irrigation, the City Ordinance allows three days a week irrigation which is not consistent with Broward County's ordinance allowing only two days a week irrigation.
- Inclusion of a variance section required by SFWMD that is absent from our current ordinance

In making these changes, the City's ordinance will now be compliant with Chapter 40E-24 (F.A.C) and Broward County Code Sec. 36-55.

Resource Impact

Restricting irrigation from three to two days per week has the potential to save up to one billion gallons of water annually. Water conservation measures will impact water consumption revenues. The level of public compliance and behavior modification will dictate the actual change in revenue.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community
- Objective: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, stormwater, road, and bridge infrastructure

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Ready.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element
- Goal 4: Continue to support water conservation efforts to support sustainability and extend existing water resources.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Prepared by: Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Compliance Manager

Department Director: Alan Dodd, P.E., Public Works